MARVEL

2

DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

FOR YEARS, THE SYMBIOTES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HAVE BEEN LEAVING MICROSCOPIC PIECES OF GENETIC MATERIAL – CALLED "CODEXES" -- IN THE BODIES OF THEIR HOSTS, AND CLETUS KASADY, BONDED WITH A GODLY SYMBIOTE KNOWN AS THE GRENDEL, HAS RETURNED TO CLAIM THEM.

REUNITED WITH HIS OWN LOST SYMBIOTE, EDDIE BROCK AND HIS SON MUST SURVIVE RELENTLESS ATTACKS FROM CARNAGE IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND HELP FROM AN UNLIKELY ALLY... SPIDER-MAN.

THE MAKER, THE REED RICHARDS OF A PARALLEL UNIVERSE, HAS CONSTRUCTED A DEVICE THAT CAN EXTRACT THE CODEXES SAFELY, BUT NEEDS A SUBJECT TO TEST IT.

WITH FEW OPTIONS AND PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME, SPIDER-MAN AND VENOM HAVE RESOLVED TO BREAK NORMAN OSBORN – FORMER HOST TO THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE – OUT OF RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

BUT THEY WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES LOOKING FOR NORMAN...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

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CLETUS KASADY IS DEAD.

LONG LIVE CLETUS @#$%&@ KASADY.

PILOTING MY NEW CARNAGE MACHINE INTO EVERY GAPING HOLE IN THIS MANNEQUIN-FILLED CITY.

KILL ENOUGH, AND I AWAKE MY GOD.

AND THEN THIS WORLD FALLS UNDER A WATERFALL OF BLOOD AND ENTERS A NEW UNIVERSE OF DARK.

AND HOO-BOY, I WILL BE THERE.

SUCKING THE LAST SWEET SHIVERING BREATHS OUT OF ITS ROTTING, MAGGOT-FILLED, BLOATED CORPSE.

DANCING ALL SILLY AND SPINE-BROKEN TO THE UNIVERSE'S DEATH RATTLE.

I AM THE GORE EMPEROR OF A THOUSAND DEAD STARS.

I AM A NEW COLOSSUS OF BLEEDING RED MEGADEATH.

I AM THE RED RIGHT HAND OF THE KING IN BLACK.

I AM THE END OF THE WORLD AS YOU @#$%&&# KNOW IT...

...AND I FEEL LIKE A DRINK.

RAAAGHHH!!!

I'M GETTING LOW ON WEBFLUID, EDDIE. THIS IS... THIS IS NOT--

WE KNOW.

WE CAN'T WIN THIS ONE.

WE CAN HEAR HIM IN THE SPACE WE SHARE.

WE ARE CONNECTED TO CLETUS, TO THE GRENDEL SYMBIOTE HE'S WEARING, IN WAYS WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

HIS MADNESS IS INFECTIOUS. HIS THOUGHTS ECHO LIKE BROKEN GLASS. *NAPALM* IN OUR MIND.

NEED TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE CLAW OUR OWN EYES OUT.

KA-POW

COME ON!

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE NORMAN LIKE THIS! HE'S--

HE'S *DEAD*, PETE. WE HAVE TO--

SPLATCH

--GO!

yank!

LONG WAY DOWN. OUT OF WEBFLUID.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE PLAN IS HERE, EDDIE. BUT WE NEED TO--

PETE.

DON'T WORRY.

WE GOT THIS.

GUH!

WHATISGOINGONRIGHTNOWIHATEALLOFIT!

WHY... ARE WE NOT FOLLOWING THEM?

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WE ARE.

THERE IS NOWHERE THEY CAN GO.

WELL...THAT'S SOME VAGUE @#$%&@.

WHAT HAPPENED TO RUNNING SOMEONE DOWN, SCREAMING AND LAUGHING AND SLITTING THEIR THROAT?

THE YOUNG WOLF RUNS.

AND HE KILLS ONE.

THE OLD WOLF WALKS.

AND HE KILLS THEM ALL.

...

WHAT THE @#$% ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THERE ARE MORE SPIDERS WHERE THEY CAME FROM, OSBORN...

"...YOU JUST HAVE TO DISTURB THE RIGHT WEB."

AAAAAAAHAAAAAAHHH!

AGH!

UGH.

EDDIE...

OW.

WHAT...WHAT **WAS** THAT? WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING?

I... I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW IF WE **CAN** FIGHT IT, PETE.

WELL... OKAY, THAT'S A BAD ATTITUDE TO HAVE IN AN APOCALYPSE.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? WE LOST. WE AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH.

SO WE FIND SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE!

YOU FALL DOWN, AND THEN YOU GET BACK UP. AND YOU HOPE YOU GET UP MORE THAN YOU FALL DOWN. THAT'S HOW THIS **WORKS,** EDDIE.

YEAH. THAT WAS ALWAYS REALLY ANNOYING ABOUT YOU.

LISTEN TO ME.

IF WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM, THEN WE HAVE TO SAVE THE PEOPLE HE'S COMING FOR.

WE GET THEM TO THE MAKER'S MACHINE AND PULL THE CODEX OUT OF THEM.

YEAH. YEAH, OKAY, SO WHAT...WE GO CALL CAPTAIN AMERICA AND WOLVERINE AND--

UM... HOW ABOUT I HANDLE THOSE GUYS?

RIGHT.

AND I GUESS I'LL GO HANDLE ALL THE... LOW-LIFE CRIMINALS AND PSYCHOPATHS AND MURDEROUS ALIENS ON THE LIST.

COOL.

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OKAY. THAT'S A PLAN. GOOD LUCK OUT THERE, MAN. AND LOOK, IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT--

ONE SEC.

BRRR BBRRR

BRRRR

AH, @#$%...

OOOKKAY.

THIS IS EDDIE. WHAT'S UP? IS DYLAN--

PSSSHH

Yes, yes.

Everything is fine. That screaming? Oh no, the boys are watching television. Dylan is fine.*

*WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? CHECK OUT **VENOM #17**, VENOMANIACS! --EDITOR

I had a free minute for lunch, so I hacked the FBI's database.

Edward... I need to tell you something about that mass grave.

WHAT IS IT? DID THEY...

DID THEY FIND ANNE?

That's just it, Edward...

...her body wasn't there.

Carnage did not dig Anne Weying up.

WHAT? BUT...ANNE WORE THE SYMBIOTE. SHE WOULD'VE HAD A CODEX IN HER.

I don't believe she did when she died, Eddie.

I believe Dylan *is* that codex.

I believe she passed it down to him.

Do you know what this means, Edward?

It means he's a target.

Your ***son*** *is a target.*

Would you like me to tell him--

NO! DON'T SCARE HIM.

JUST... TELL HIM... TELL HIM I'LL BE THERE SOON.

AND... MAKER...IF ANYTHING--

Nothing will harm the child as long as I am standing. You have my word.

Now go kill that monster before this goes any further.

YEAH. I'M...

DO YOU FEEL THEM, EDDIE?

...ON IT.

BOOOM

THE INFECTION.

SPREADING... GROWING.

THE CARNAGE HORDE GROWS.

YEAH. YEAH, I FEEL IT.

I SEE IT.

NOW LET'S GO END IT.

THE SPIRE. MILES UNDER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.

NOW.

YEESH! LOOK AT THIS PLACE!

WHO EVER SAID MURDER DON'T PAY, RIGHT?!

I'M TRYING TO WRAP MY HANDS AROUND A PLANET'S THROAT, NORMAN.

DO US A FAVOR AND SHUT THE @#$% UP.

WHAT... DID YOU JUST CALL ME?

I CALLED YOU NORMAN. BECAUSE THAT'S WHO YOU ARE. LITTLE NORMAN OSBORN.

PLAYING DRESS-UP BECAUSE I ALLOW IT.

BECAUSE IT AMUSES ME.

BUT LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT!

AGH!

THERE'S ONLY ONE CARNAGE IN THIS HOUSE.

NNNGH.

AND CARNAGE RULES.

UNF!

THUD

YOU KNOW...WHEN YOU FINALLY GET OFF YOUR ASS AND START THIS LITTLE SPREE OF YOURS...THERE'S GONNA COME A TIME WHEN YOU AND ME ARE GONNA HAVE TO SQUARE UP.

ONE OF US IS GONNA HAVE TO DIE TO COLLECT ALL THE PIECES OF THE CODEX.

"START"?

HAHAHA. WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN DOING?

LOOK AROUND, YOU IDIOT.

"...THE CARNAGE HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

"MY TENDRILS ARE ALREADY BURROWING INTO THE VEINS OF THIS CITY.

"ENDLESS CLAWS CLOSED AROUND THE BRITTLE SPINES OF A HUNDRED PATHETIC HEROES.

"WAITING IN BREATHLESS AGONY FOR ME TO JUST...PULL.

"A THOUSAND TEETH SLOWLY BREAKING THE SKIN OF THIS HELLHOLE PLANET."

BEGGING ME TO GIVE ONE FINAL SQUEEZE...

...AND DROWN THE STREETS IN RED

GET...GET BEHIND ME, SCORPION.

GET BEHIND *YOU?* KID, I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT YOU AIN'T DOING ANY BETTER!

I CAN DO THIS!

THOK

WHY? 'CAUSE YOU'RE NOT A TARGET? BECAUSE YOU NEVER WORE A SYMBIOTE?

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED, BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO CARE...

NO.

BECAUSE I'M *SPIDER-MAN!*

AND THIS IS--AGH--WHAT SPIDER-MAN DOES!

HE FIGHTS!

DUMB!

ALIEN!

MONSTERS!

ZZANK ZARK KUNK KAZAK

AND HE-- AGH!

SCORPION, HELP ME!

SORRY, KID. I KNOW I USED TO BE VENOM AND ALL...

...BUT I AIN'T SPIDER-MAN.

YEAH...

...NO @#$•/•.

VENOM!

WE WILL TALK AFTER I SAVE THE BOY.

RIGHT NOW...

...YOU FIGHT!

EDDIE!

OH GOD...

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WELL, WELL, WELL...

WHAT'S THIS?

TWO VENOMS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE?

IS IT MY BIRTHDAY?

NO! MAC, GET AWAY FROM HIM!

AGH, NO...

NICE TRY, DADDY!

BUT THIS LITTLE PIGGY...

...IS MINE!

AGGHHH!!!

JUST ANOTHER INCH, MAC. AND THIS IS ALL--

RAGGHH!!!

NO!

AHH!

NO! NO!

MAC, GET UP. WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW!

I CAN'T... I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS, MAN.

I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS!

YOU...

COME ON!

THE...THE... KID...

WAIT. WHERE IS...

...SPIDER-MAN...

EDDIE!

PLEASE!

DON'T...

DON'T... *HEH... GO...*

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

HAHAHA!

TO BE CONTINUED...

CLETUS' CLUBHOUSE

DANNY KHAZEM
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DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR
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EDITOR IN CHIEF

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SEND EMAILS TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

Hello, Venomaniacs, and welcome to another installment of Cletus' Clubhouse!

And, unless you've been living under a rock, you already know that it's the summer of slaughter as ABSOLUTE CARNAGE continues.

If you're picking this issue up, you've probably been keeping up with the main event of the series—but if you haven't, GO BUY IT AND READ IT NOW! RIGHT NOW! You're probably terribly confused!

Are you all caught up? GOOD!

At the time of this writing, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and #2 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1 have been sent to the printer but aren't on sale in comic shops yet! So we don't have any letters from you symbiotic superfans out there in Mighty Marveldom yet to flesh out this very letters page. BUT YOU CAN FIX THAT! Got a bone to pick about continuity? Drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM and mark it "OKAY TO PRINT," and it may wind up in our next issue!

ITEM: Fortunately, for yours truly, there's no shortage of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE news to share, including some about this very comics mag!

This event is a love letter to all the Venom stories that have come before—a violent, scary love letter from a bloodthirsty extraterrestrial, but a love letter just the same.

But it's not enough for Donny and Ryan, with JP and Frank, to wax nostalgic. No way. This is a team of creators who are DEDICATED to bringing you as many scares and uncomfortable squirms that they can muster—and as you've seen for yourself, that's a lot.

If you thought what happened to Miles and Scorpion was bad, you may not be ready for what comes next!

ITEM: But amongst all the terror and action, we're also looking to EXPAND the Marvel Mythos wherever we can, and we've been lucky enough to expand the VENOM family with this event!

We knew from the beginning that we wanted Miles Morales to play a big part in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE. He and Venom have history, and he came face-to-face with Knull in Donny and Ryan's opening arc.

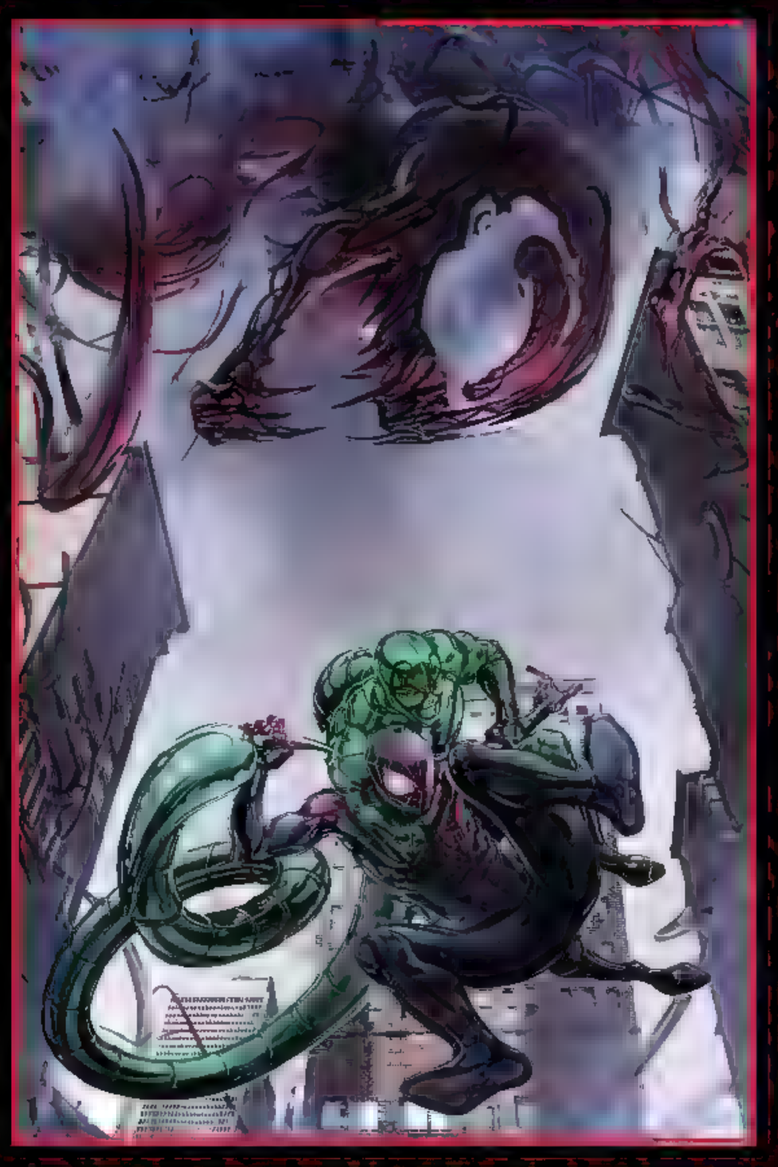
And the only man for bringing that story to life is Saladin Ahmed, the Eisner-winning writer of the ongoing Miles Morales series! Saladin obviously writes a great Miles/Spider-Man, but it's the way he writes Mac Gargan that REALLY excited me about being able to bring him into the fold of the event.

I dunno about you, but reading the script, I found Saladin's take on Mac TERRIFYING. It's not every day that you can reinvigorate a character who's been through so much as Mac, but here Saladin is, making him a bloodthirsty killer—and I'm HERE for it.

But comics are an illustrated medium, and for this series, we were lucky enough to be joined by Federico Vincentini, doing his first work for Marvel. This may be

his debut, but you'd never know it looking at Federico's pages. His work has a real energy and kineticism to it, and I can't wait for you to see what he's done in issue #2...!

Add in series editor Kathleen Wisneski, who knows the Spider-World inside and out, and you've got a recipe for a story that'll leave you reeling in the best way possible—and it's on sale RIGHT NOW!



ITEM: But a story all about Carnage wouldn't be complete without his cronies, and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS is all about 'em, and one of the most ruthless books I've ever worked on. The characters are creepy, the monsters are scary and there's a real grim energy to the whole thing.

(Maybe the demonic resurrection has something to do with that?)

When it came time to bring this story to life, we knew Frank Tieri was the only man for the job. The comics equivalent of a soldier of fortune, Frank came in on a chopper and wielding an M16—pitching a story about a mental asylum, a lycan and a whole lot of symbiote goo.

He's a madman, but I think you'll agree he's got the goods.

And so does illustrator Flaviano! Flaviano turned heads on BLACK WIDOW, and we knew his violent, moody sensibilities would breathe terrifying life into Frank's scripts! Just look at that Carnage/Demagoblin kiss—makes my SKIN CRAWL!

That's it for us in this one, Venomaniacs! Keep your eyes peeled at your local comic shop for the line of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE tie-ins as the summer of slaughter continues!

And remember: Tell your shop that you want the best, and this summer, the best is CARNAGE! #carnagerules

Stay Sharp,
Devin

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE CHECKLIST

AUGUST

- X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1
- X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2
- X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1
- X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1
- X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #1
- X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1
- X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1
- X VENOM #17

SEPTEMBER

- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #2
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: GHOST RIDER - SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE #1
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1
- VENOM #18
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

OCTOBER

- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK #1
- VENOM #19
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31

NOVEMBER

- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5
- VENOM #20

RAVENCROFT
INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

INITIAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

Instructions: *This form is to be completed, signed, and dated for all clients who are being referred for psychiatric services.*

Presentation at ED ☐ Self ☐ Family/Friend ☒ Police ☐ Provider ☐ Other ☐ N/A ☐ CIS

Referral Source/Relationship POLICE (SPIDER-MAN) Date/Time of Referral 5/30

☒ On site OR ☐ Walk In AND ☐ Scheduled OR ☐ Unscheduled

Assessment Began 8/6 (Date (MM/DD)) and 11:02 (Time (00:00) a.m. / p.m.) Ended 8/6 (Date (MM/DD)) and 11:47 (Time (00:00) a.m. / p.m.)

Name of Client NORMAN VIRGIL OSBORN

[redacted] (Street Address) NEW YORK (City) 10021 (Zip) [redacted] (PHONE) ☒ Male ☐ Female

Date of Birth 07/22/64 (m m d d y y) Patient No. ASM01 0014

Employed ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ Unknown Occupation FORMER OWNER & PRESIDENT OF OSCORP Veteran Yes ☐ No ☒ Combat? Yes ☐ No ☒

Language ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Arabic ☐ Chinese ☐ Other _____ Interpreter Needed ☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing with ☐ American Sign Language

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing (does not communicate using ASL)

Recent Stressors: ☒ Relationship ☒ Family ☐ Job ☐ Housing ☒ Financial ☒ Legal ☐ Other _____

Medical History/Treatment/Pertinent injuries: (diagnosis/describe) PATIENT SUSTAINED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRAUMA AFTER ALTERCATION WITH SPIDER-MAN; NOW BELIEVES HE IS CLETUS KASADY.

Behavioral Health History/Treatment

Substance Use History/Treatment

Is there a family history of substance use issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

Does the person currently use mind-altering substances (drugs, alcohol, marijuana, etc.) ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

If yes, what substances: ALCOHOL; TRACES OF UNDOCUMENTED MIND-ALTERING DRUG

Mental Health History/Treatment

Is there a family history of mental health issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

(diagnosis/describe) PATIENT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED & TREATED FOR MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND INSANITY

Is there a family history of suicide attempt(s) or completion(s)? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

(describe) PATIENT FILES ON PARENTS WERE HEAVILY REDACTED.

TRANSCRIPT OF PSYCHICIATRIC EVALUATION
PATIENT NAME: NORMAN OSBORN
TRANSCRIBED BY CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN

OSBORN: Doctor Treadwell. As I live and breathe… To what do I owe the honor, doc?

TREADWELL: Good morning, Norman. How are we feeling today?

OSBORN: Doc… That ol' saw again? How many times we gonna do this song and dance?

TREADWELL: Pardon?

OSBORN: You tell me I'm that small potato Osborn, I tell you I'm not, you tell me I'm somebody I ain't and I tell you to go **** yourself. Sound about right? We might as well dust off that ol' "Who's on First?" routine we got down. I'll be Abbott, and you be Costello…

TREADWELL: That's quite all right, Norman.

OSBORN: Cletus. Get it through your thick skull before I crush it.

TREADWELL: I wanted to try something different today. Perhaps this might be of interest to you.

OSBORN: What the hell's that? You bringing toys for me? It's playtime now?

TREADWELL: You don't remember this?

OSBORN: Should I?

TREADWELL: It's a doll.

OSBORN: I can see that, Einstein. Why the hell are you bringing it here? You want me to point at the spot on the doll where the bad man touched me? That it?

TREADWELL: This is from your childhood, Norman. As a matter of fact, this doll was given to you by none other than your father. I have been told it was your most cherished possession as a young boy. You wouldn't let it go, no matter how hard your nanny tried. Inseparable.

OSBORN: Hate to break it to you, doc, but I sure as hell didn't play with any dolls when I was a boy… Only toy my daddy gave me growing up was the cherry end of whatever Pal Mal he was smoking.

TREADWELL: I thought you might say something to that effect. Go ahead. Take it. Hold it.

OSBORN: Why?

TREADWELL: Humor me. I've come to believe that when we revisit totems from our past, they can have something of a…cathartic effect. I want to see if this item jogs any memories for you.

OSBORN: Suit yourself, doc. You wanna play with dolls, let's play with dolls… (Takes the item, considers it.) Hold on now. Hold on… You're saying… You're telling me this was mine? When I was still ****ing in my britches?

TREADWELL: That is correct, Norman. What do you remember? What does it make you see?

OSBORN: I see… I see a boy. He's…alone. Crying.

TREADWELL: That's good, Norman. That's wonderful. Tell me more… What else do you see?

OSBORN: Nobody is listening to him. Nobody… Nobody's there to help. Just him and his…his dolly. He's hugging it. Got it pressed so tight against his chest. All he's got… Only friend. He whispers to it.

TREADWELL: What is he saying?

OSBORN: All his pain… All his fear. He puts it into the doll. Lets the doll have it. Dolly says she'll take it. Take it and throw it away for him. She loves the boy.

TREADWELL: Splendid, Norman. Splendid! Can you tell me why the boy is so afraid? Why were you so afraid?

OSBORN: He… He's afraid because…because I've taken him away from his mommy and daddy. The dumb **** didn't listen to his parents when they told him he shouldn't talk to strangers. Now I've brought him home with me. He's my dolly now. And we're gonna play, play, plaaaay till the batteries run out. (Laughs.)

TREADWELL: Very well, Norman. If that's how you—

OSBORN: He's crying, doc. That boy's crying so much, his doll's all soaked through. Nothing but a sponge! All sopping wet... When I was done with that kid, I just brought up that doll to my face and squeeeeezed. So refreshing! I decided to keep it. For the life of me, I can't remember where I buried the boy, but let me tell yooou, that dolly was indeed one of my most prized possessions!

TREADWELL: That's enough—

OSBORN: Thanks for bringing it back to me, doc! You got one thing right: It's always fun to jog the ol' memory bank! Can I keep it? Pleeeease? Just for a little while longer? I wanna walk down memory lane with my dollllyyyy…

The inked, unused cover of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #361, penciled by Mark Bagley and inked by Randy Emberlin!

NEXT:

#3

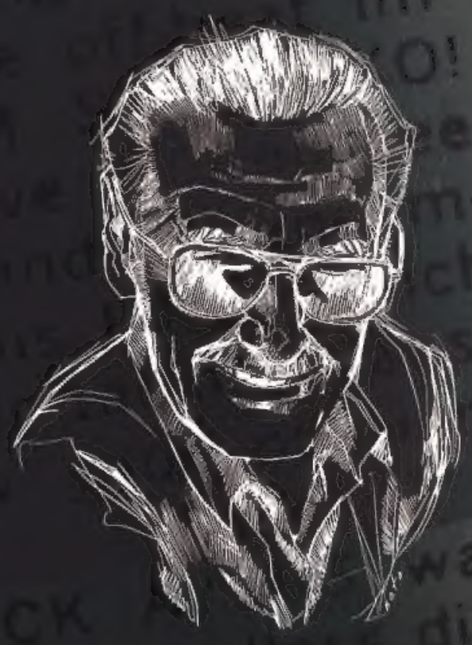
STAN'S SOAPBOX · FEBRUARY 1969

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, students! The subject of today's swingin' seminar will be "Where Do You Nuts Get Your Ideas?" That question is asked of Yours Truly at lectures, interviews, and bull sessions more often than any other. So, let's kick it around for Marveldom Assembled. The point is, ideas are no problem. Here in the Bullpen, we can't talk to each other for five minutes without coming up with a zillion new thoughts and angles. The big hangup is getting the time to develop the ideas . . . to polish them, and refine them until we feel they'll have maximum impact — until we know they'll be an integral part of the ubiquitous Marvel universe! Everyone has ideas — you, I, the gang in the mail-room — even our competitors, bless 'em. What really counts is what you DO with them. We believe that almost any idea can be worthwhile, if it's presented with integrity, taste, and imagination. For, an idea is like a guitar — it doesn't mean a thing unless you know how to use it!

Excelsior.

Smiley



STAN LEE

FOREVER

artwork of Happy HOWARD PURCELL can be? Since he's taken over the Watcher yarn which rounds out our spellbinding SILVER SURFER mag, we wonder how we ever got along without him! Howie still teaches art in his spare time, so poor Smiley has to think twice before trying to make like an editor! And, by the way, no matter how you slice it, THE SILVER SURFER is probably the biggest smash hit in comic mag publishing since the still-supreme F.F. — just as you knew it would be!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!